OSCARS AWARDS 97th Academy Awards

LOCATION- DOLBY THEATERS

HOST- CONAN O BRIEN

DATES- 3 MARCH 2025

Adrien Brody won the Oscar Award for Best Actor for his movie THE BRUTALIST.

ANORA MOVIE WON the Oscars for Best Picture.

Mikey Madison for Best Actress (Anora)

Zoe Saldaña for Best Supporting Actress (Emilia Pérez)

Kieran Culkin for Best Supporting Actor (A Real Pain).

Sean Baker won Best Director for Anora, which also won Best Film Editing.

Other key winners were Dune: Part Two for Best Sound and Best Visual Effects, and

Wicked for Best Production Design and Best Costume Design.

Most nominations: Emilia Pérez (13)

Owen Cooper, 15, has won the award for best supporting actor in a limited series at the 77th Emmy Awards. The star of Adolescence is the youngest ever male Emmy winner.

II CURRENT DIRECTOR OF CBI?

The current CBI director is Praveen Sood, who has held his position since 25 May 2023.

The CBI is the agency within the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, under the Government of India. The director reports to the Minister concerned.

The Government of India

(with recommendations from the Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Opposition leader[a] and the Chief Justice of India[b])

Formation	1 April 1963; 62 years ago
First holder	D. P. Kohli, IPS
Term length	Two years Renewable thrice (one year each)

AMIT SHAH LAUNCHES BHARATPOL PORTAL DEVELOPED BY THE CBI-AIMS TO FACILITATE REAL TIME INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSISTANCE.

III GLOBAL INFLATION IN DROPS SIGNIFICANTLY.

According to the IMF, global inflation fell to 5.7% in 2024, down from 8.7% in 2022, showing stabilization in the post-pandemic global economy.

IV INDIA FIRST AI UNIVERSITY

To be established in Maharashtra. Task force formed by the Maharashtra govt.

Chaired by Parrag Jain Nainutala.

FATHER OF AI- JOHN MCCARTHY.

I Who Was Kalidasa?

Name	**Kalidasa**
Time	Around **4th–5th century CE** (Gupta Period)

Period	
Known As	**Greatest Sanskrit poet and dramatist**
Court Poet of	**King Chandragupta II Vikramaditya** (Gupta Empire)
Language	**Sanskrit**
Title Given	Often referred to as **"Indian Shakespeare"**
Literary Style	Blend of **poetic beauty, classical Sanskrit, and deep emotion**
Genre	Plays (Drama), Epic Poetry, Lyrical Poetry

🎭 Major Works of Kalidasa

Type	Work	Theme/Notes
Drama	**Abhijnanashakuntalam**	Based on Mahabharata; story of **Shakuntala and King Dushyanta**
Drama	**Malavikagnimitram**	Love story of King Agnimitra and Malavika
Drama	**Vikramorvashiyam**	Love of King Pururavas and Apsara Urvashi
Epic Poem	**Raghuvamsha**	Genealogy of the **Raghu dynasty** (ancestor of Rama)
Epic Poem	**Kumarasambhavam**	Birth of **Kartikeya (Kumara)** – son of Shiva and Parvati
Lyric Poem	**Meghaduta (The Cloud Messenger)**	Love message sent by a Yaksha through a cloud

Type	Work	Theme/Notes
		UJJAIN IS RELATED TO MEGHADUTA POEM.
Lyric Poem	**Ritusamhara**	Description of **six Indian seasons** in poetic form

The ‘Kalidas Samman’ is a prestigious arts award presented annually by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in India.

Topic 1: **India has placed a repeat order for 73,000 SiG Sauer SiG-716 assault rifles with the United States** (U.S.) in August 2024. The contract is valued at approximately ₹837 crore.

Key Details

- Rifle Model: SiG-716 assault rifles, manufactured by U.S. firm SiG Sauer.
- Manufacturer: U.S.-based SiG Sauer.
- Country of Origin: United States.
- Contract Value: Approximately ₹837 crore (Indian Rupees).
- Context: This is a follow-on order to a previous purchase of 72,400 rifles in 2019.

- Purpose: The acquisition is aimed at modernizing the Indian Army's infantry and frontline troops, particularly along the border with China

TOPIC 2: **The 21st edition of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2025, was recently held in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA**, and concluded on September 16, 2025. The two-week exercise, from September 1 to 14, involved approximately 450 soldiers from each nation, focusing on enhancing interoperability, tactical drills, and joint readiness for various scenarios, including mountain warfare and peacekeeping operations.

- Indian Army: A battalion from the Madras Regiment.
- U.S. Army: Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats" of the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Arctic Wolves), 11th Airborne Division.

TOPIC 3- **Indian Air Force Retires Iconic MiG-21 Fighter Jets**

The first MiG-21 planes were inducted into the Indian Air Force in 1963 and, since then, over 1,200 of the fighter jets have protected the country. This marks the end of a six-decade era for the Soviet-era aircraft.

he IAF is negotiating to buy 114 fighter jets from global manufacturers. Dassault Rafale is the leading contender. DASSAULT IS FROM FRANCE (RAFALE WAS BROUNGHT)

TOPIC 4- **25th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit was held in Tianjin,** China from August 31 to September 1, 2025, hosted by China, the rotating chair. Leaders from all ten member states—Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—participated. The summit produced the Tianjin Declaration, focusing on issues of security, economic development, and global governance

Russia-India-China (RIC) Triangle

The Indian Prime Minister's bilateral meeting with Xi Jinping marked their first encounter on Chinese soil in seven years, signaling thawing in bilateral relations.

Brief History of SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation emerged from the "Shanghai Five" mechanism established in 1996, initially comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to resolve border disputes. Subsequently, Uzbekistan became a member in 2000. The SCO was formally founded on June 15, 2001.

Originally focused on regional security and counter-terrorism, the organization expanded its mandate to include economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, and energy security. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

Topic 5**- The Indian Navy commissioned two Project-17A stealth frigates, INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri, together in Visakhapatnam on August 26, 2025.** The event marked the first time two frontline warships, built by different shipyards – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) – were commissioned simultaneously. These advanced vessels are designed to operate in "Blue Water" conditions and strengthen India's maritime security and self-reliance initiatives.

Under which project?

Project 17A is the Nilgiri-class stealth frigates project for the Indian Navy, designed to produce seven advanced, multi-mission warships with significantly enhanced stealth, weaponry, and automation compared to their predecessors. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), these frigates represent a generational leap in indigenous warship design and manufacturing,

contributing to India's self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta) in defense shipbuilding.

Seven frigates are being built under this project by MDL (four ships) and GRSE (three ships)

TOPIC 6- The Union Cabinet recently approved the Tato II hydroelectric project worth ₹8,146 crore in Arunachal Pradesh, specifically in the Shi Yomi District on the Siyom River.

Key Facts:

- **State:** Arunachal Pradesh
- **Project:** Tato II Hydro Electric Project (HEP)
- **Investment:** ₹8,146.21 crore
- **Location:** Shi Yomi District
- **Capacity:** 700 MW (4 x 175 MW)
- **Approval:** Approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister
- **Purpose:** To improve power supply in Arunachal Pradesh, balance the national grid, foster socio-economic progress, and support infrastructure development.
- Arunachal Pradesh will receive 12% free power and an additional 1% for the Local Area Development Fund (LADF).
- The project will be implemented through a joint venture between North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.... Read more at: https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/tato-ii-hydroelectric-project/

OTHER FACTS RELATED TO ARUNACHAL AND OTHER HYDROPOWER PROJECTS ON SIYOM RIVER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a visit to the Northeast, today laid the foundation stone of two major hydropower projects in Arunachal Pradesh – the Heo Hydro Electric Project (240 MW) and Tato-I Hydro Electric Project (186 MW). The projects will be developed in the Siyom sub-basin of Arunachal Pradesh. The PM also laid the foundation stone of a state-of-the-art convention centre at Tawang, and multiple key infrastructure projects worth over Rs 1,290 crore.

- The Brahmaputra is the largest river that flows through Arunachal Pradesh. The river is known as Siang or Dihang River in the state. The river shares its boundary with four regions – China, Tibet, Bangladesh and India.
- The highest mountain peak in the state of Arunachal Pradesh is the Kangto mountain. The mountain is also known as the Kanggardo Rize mountain.
- **Dehang-Debang Biosphere Reserve:** A notable biodiversity hotspot located along the state's northern border, encompassing a range of forest types from tropical to mountain tundra.
- The capital of Arunachal Pradesh is Itanagar, and the official language is English. The state has an area of 83,573 square kilometres. It shares its border with China, Assam, Nagaland, Bhutan and Myanmar. It houses the Shiwalik ranges, with many rivers flowing through the region.
- The state of Arunachal Pradesh is located in the foothills of the Himalayas and is primarily a hilly region. During British rule, Arunachal Pradesh was referred to as North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA). It was given the status of a union territory in 1972, before which it was a part of Assam. In 1987, Arunachal Pradesh officially became an Indian state.

- The state has six topographical regions. The Tirap district and the western part of the Kameng district form the first two topographical regions.

TOPIC 7: **The U.S. on Monday (August 11, 2025) designated Pakistan-based Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and its alias, The Majeed Brigade, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation**.

Goal: Achieve independence for Balochistan from Pakistan and control over the region's natural resources.

Allah Nazar Baloch is the current leader.

The group has claimed responsibility for attacks on:

- Civilians
- Journalists
- Government officials
- Law enforcement and security personnel

Operates primarily in the Balochistan region of Pakistan but is Afghanistan-based.

TOPIC **8: What are the names of the four newly constructed multi storeyed apartments inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in Delhi for Members of Parliament named after?**

PM Modi Inaugurates 184 Newly Constructed Type-VII Multi-Storey Flats For MPs In New Delhi at Baba Kharak Singh Marg in New Delhi.

he Prime Minister said, the four towers are beautifully named after the great rivers of the country – Krishna, Godavari, Kosi and Hooghly, which give life to crores of people.

Kosi- It is known as the "Sorrow of Bihar" due to its tendency for destructive annual floods and frequent course changes. (in BIHAR AND NEPAL

FLOWS). It merges with the Ganga River near Kursela in the Indian state of Bihar.

Godavari and Krishna- The river Godavari originates in the state of Maharashtra and flows through the state of Andhra Pradesh before joining the Bay of Bengal. The river Krishna has its origin in the state of Maharashtra and flows through the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh before joining the Bay of Bengal.

TOPIC 9- **The Indian Railways' Asia's longest freight train is named Rudrastra.** This 4.5-kilometer-long train, comprising 354 wagons and powered by seven engines, successfully completed a trial run from Ganjkhwaja station to Garhwa Road station.

Key Details

- **Name**: Rudrastra
- **Length**: 4.5 kilometers
- **Wagons**: 354
- **Engines**: 7
- **Trial Route**: *Ganjkhwaja (Uttar Pradesh) to Garhwa (Jharkhand)*
- **Significance**: The trial run demonstrated increased efficiency and a significant leap in India's freight transport capacity.

TOPIC 10- **India's first Animal Stem Cell Biobank was inaugurated recently in Hyderabad at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) on August 9, 2025**. Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the facility, which will focus on regenerative medicine, cellular therapies, disease modeling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology.

This biobank aims to reduce dependence on imports and strengthen India's biomanufacturing capacity

TOPIC 11- **India's Longest-Route Vande Bharat Train Launched on Nagpur–Pune Corridor**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the Nagpur-Pune Vande Bharat Express and two other trains by flagging them off through video conferencing.

BRIEF HISTORY OF VANDEBHARAT

The first Vande Bharat train was launched on February 15, 2019, running between New Delhi and Varanasi Junction. This indigenously built, semi-high-speed train was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is a flagship example of the 'Make in India' initiative.

- **Route:** New Delhi → Kanpur → Prayagraj → Varanasi
- **Inaugural Run:** February 15, 2019
- **Manufacturer:** Integral Coach Factory (ICF) Chennai
- **Purpose:** To provide a new travel experience with semi-high-speed capabilities, eventually succeeding the Shatabdi Express for intercity travel.
- **Capability:** The train can operate at a maximum speed of 160 km/h.

Sudhanshu Mani, who was the general manager of the ICF at the time, led the team of engineers, designers and technicians to make these trainsets.

India has a deal to export 45 Vande Bharat train coaches to Cambodia, showcasing how India's rail technology is making its mark globally.

TOPIC 12- **Which two countries in the Caucasus region recently signed a historic peace agreement at the White House?**

The Armenia–Azerbaijan peace deal, officially titled the Agreement "On the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan", aims to end the ongoing *Nagorno-Karabakh* conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. On 8 August 2025, Armenian prime minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev, with the mediation of United States president Donald Trump, initialled an agreement and signed a joint declaration emphasizing the need to continue efforts toward the signing and final ratification of the agreement.

Part of the agreement includes granting the United States exclusive rights to develop the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP), for the next 99 years, aiming to connect the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic to Azerbaijan through Armenia. Currently, due to the ongoing Turkish–Azeri blockade against Armenia, direct transit through the region is hampered.

CAUCASUS REGION- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and parts of the Russian Federation

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict (Key Facts)

- **Region**: Nagorno-Karabakh, internationally recognized as part of **Azerbaijan**, but historically inhabited mostly by **ethnic Armenians**.
- **Origins**:
    - Conflict began in the **late 1980s** as the Soviet Union was collapsing.
    - In **1991**, ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh declared independence as the **Republic of Artsakh** (not internationally recognized).

    - A full-scale war (1992–1994) ended with Armenian forces controlling Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding Azerbaijani territories.
    - Over **30,000 people died**, and over **a million were displaced**.
- **Frozen Conflict** (1994–2020):
    - Occasional skirmishes.
    - Peace talks mediated by the **OSCE Minsk Group** (led by Russia, France, USA) failed to bring a resolution.
- **2020 War**:
    - Lasted **44 days** (Sept–Nov 2020).
    - Azerbaijan, with support from **Turkey** and drones, recaptured much of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas.
    - **Over 6,500 deaths**.
    - Ended with a **Russian-brokered ceasefire**: Russian peacekeepers deployed; Armenia ceded territory.
- **2023 Azerbaijani Offensive**:
    - In **September 2023**, Azerbaijan launched a **one-day military operation**.
    - Result: **Full control** over Nagorno-Karabakh.
    - **Ethnic Armenians (over 100,000)** fled to Armenia, effectively **emptying the region**.
    - The **Republic of Artsakh declared dissolution** by January 1, 2024.

Current Status (as of 2025):

- **Nagorno-Karabakh is fully under Azerbaijani control**.
- The ethnic Armenian population has been **displaced**.
- Armenia and Azerbaijan are negotiating a **peace treaty**, but tensions remain.

TOPIC 13- **After the USA imposed an additional 25% tariff on India over the issue of Russian oil purchase, what is the total tariff? 50%**

Because the U.S. imposed an additional 25 % tariff **on top of** an earlier 25 % levy, the **total tariff** on many Indian goods bound for the U.S. now stands at **50 %**, with some exemptions

TOPIC 14- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi instituted a global award in memory of Professor M. S. Swaminathan, father of India's Green Revolution**, to honour scientists from developing nations working for "Food and Peace." The first M. S. Swaminathan Award for Food and Peace was conferred to *Nigerian scientist Prof. Ademola A. Adenle for combating hunger in Nigeria. Prof. Swaminathan, who passed away on 23 September 2023 at 98,* was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2024.

His leadership as director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines was instrumental in his being awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987, recognized as one of the highest honours in the field of agriculture.

- The United Nations Environment Programme has called him "the Father of Economic Ecology"
- Padma Shri (1967)
- Ramon Magsaysay Award (1971
- Padma Bhushan (1972)
- World Food Prize (1987)
- Padma Vibhushan (1989)
- Bharat Ratna (2024)

TOPIC 15- What Are the Piprahwa Relics? Which sacred relics of Lord Buddha have been brought back to India after 127 years?

 Contents: Bone fragments of Lord Buddha, crystal caskets, gold ornaments, and gemstones.

 Significance: Considered inalienable religious and cultural heritage of India.

- *Year: 1898*
- *Discovered by: William Claxton Peppé (British engineer)*
- Location: *Piprahwa Stupa, Uttar Pradesh (believed to be ancient Kapilavastu)*
- *Kapilvastu, formerly known by name of Taulihawa, is a municipality and administrative center of Kapilvastu District in Lumbini Province of southern Nepal. The municipality is located roughly 25 kilometres to the south-west of Lumbini, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the birthplace of Gautama Buddha*
- Inscription: Brahmi script links relics to Sakya clan (Buddha's family).
- **Colonial Era**: Taken abroad after discovery.
- **2025**: Relics appeared in an **auction in Hong Kong**.
- **Government Action**: Indian Ministry of Culture intervened diplomatically and legally.
- ***Private Support**: **Pirojsha Godrej** & **Godrej Industries Group** helped secure relics.*
- **Where**: **National Museum**, New Delhi
- **Purpose**: Public display and cultural preservation.

TOPIC 16:Which state has become the first in India to launch Sabbatical Leave scheme for its government employees?

Answer: Sikkim

Notes: Recently, Sikkim became the first Indian state to launch a formal Sabbatical Leave scheme for its government employees. *The scheme was introduced in August 2023 for regular employees with at least five years of continuous service. Eligible employees can take leave from 365 days up to 1,080 days with 50% of their basic pay during leave*. Their seniority and continuity of service are protected during the leave period. The government can recall an employee anytime with a one-month notice.

SIKKIM FAMOUS FOR

What Sikkim Is Famous For

- **Mount Kanchenjunga**

Nathu La Pass

Gurudongmar Lake 3 ISIOT SCENE SHOOTED

Yumthang Valley

Tsomgo Lake

Rumtek Monastery

Seven Sister Waterfalls

Gangtok Ropeway

Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary

Namgyal Institute of Tibetology

Tsangu Lake

- **Sacred Lakes:**

  Sikkim is home to beautiful and revered mountain lakes, such as Gurudongmar and Chho Lamo, with Chho Lamo being the source of the Teesta River.

The state has been celebrating milestones like its 50th year of statehood, reflecting on its history and development.

TOPIC 17-**Shri A. Rajarajan was appointed the new Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram,** assuming charge on August 1, 2025. A Distinguished Scientist with nearly four decades of experience in ISRO, he previously served as the Director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), SRIHARIKOTA, Andaa Pradesh, also known asb the SPACE PORT OF INDIA.

TOPIC 18- **The 32nd joint exercise conducted between the navies of India and Singapore in the South China Sea was the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-25**). This marks the 32nd iteration of the exercise, which is one of the longest-running and continuous bilateral maritime exercises India has with any country.

TOPIC 19- **ISRO recently launched the Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration (HOPE) mission in Tso Kar Valley, Ladakh,** to simulate the conditions and challenges of space exploration, acting as a precursor to the Gaganyaan mission and future interplanetary expeditions. The high-altitude region was chosen for its extreme isolation, thin air, sub-zero temperatures, and lunar-like geology, making it an ideal environment to test technologies and protocols for long-duration space missions.

Key Aspects of the HOPE Mission

- **Location:**

The mission took place in the Tso Kar Valley in Ladakh, a high-altitude, arid environment.

- **Purpose:**

To simulate the psychological and physiological stresses of space travel on Earth by testing habitats, life support systems, and crew endurance in an isolation mission.

- **Analogue Astronauts:**

Two Indian analogue astronauts*, Rahul Mogalapalli and Yaman Akot, participated in a 10-day* isolation period within the HOPE habitat.

- **Relevance to Gaganyaan:**

The mission is a crucial step in India's human spaceflight program, including the Gaganyaan mission and future crewed lunar and interplanetary voyages.

- **Environmental Simulation:**

The location offers a unique combination of extreme conditions, such as intense UV radiation, low air pressure, sub-zero temperatures, and saline soil layers, closely resembling those on the Moon and Mars.

TOPIC 20- **The Rise of the Hitman: The Rohit Sharma Story, is authored by R. Kaushik.**

being the only player with three ODI double centuries and the highest individual score in an ODI. He's also the first player to score five centuries in a single World Cup.

TOPIC 21- **PM Modi to inaugurate Kartavya Bhavan today at Kartavya Path**

also known as Central Secretariat Building–3 — the first of the new Common Central Secretariat buildings under the Central Vista redevelopment project, at Kartavya Path, DELHI. Among the ministries and departments moving into the new facility are the Ministries of Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, Petroleum and Natural Gas, MSME,

the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser.

22)Former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shibu Soren passed away at the age of 81 in New Delhi this morning, popularly known as 'Dishom Guru'. the leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)

24) The Red Hill Railway, built in 1837 in Madras (now Chennai) for transporting granite, was the first train in India. The world's first steam-powered train was Richard Trevithick's unnamed locomotive, which hauled a train of iron wagons in 1804 in Wales

25) Moldova became the 107th member country of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in August 2025, marking a significant expansion of the alliance's global reach and a step toward sustainable solar energy initiatives. Moldova is the first country from the Europe & Others region to join the ISA

CAPITAL OF MOLDOVA- Chișinău

Official language: *Romanian*

Currency: *Moldovan Leu*

Population: *23.9 lakhs (2024) World Bank*

Dialing code: *+373*

President: *Maia Sandu*

It has the tradition of wine production, and it is the largest producer of wine with the largest wine cellars in the world.

23)The Western Railway restarted its heritage train services on the 155-year-old 'Patalpani-Kalakund line' in Madhya Pradesh, specifically in the Dr. Ambedkar Nagar-Khandwa section, after a temporary suspension.

he roots of the Patalpani–Kalakund line go back to the 19th century. It was first envisioned by Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II (1844–1886), the ruler of

the Holkar dynasty of Indore. His proposal for a railway line from Indore to Khandwa, including the Patalpani–Kalakund section, was realized in 1878.

25)